MSP for wheat and pulses

1942. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to substantially increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of wheat and pulses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government has announced/fixed the Minimum Support Prices of rabi crops, including wheat, gram and masur (lentil), for 2007-08 season on 9th October, 2007, while the MSPs of kharif crops, including arhar (tur), moong and urad, of 2007-08 season were announced/fixed on 17th May, 2007. The MSPs of wheat and pulses for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the table below:

(Rs. Per quintal)

Crop	2006-07	2007-08
Wheat	750*	1000
Gram	1445	1600
Masur (Lentil)	1545	1700
Arhar (Tur)	1410	1550**
Moong	1520	1700**
Urad	1520	1700**

*An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal was payable over and above the MSP.

**A bonus of Rs 40 per quintal is payable over and above the MSP

Use of chemical fertilizers

11943. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of chemical fertilizers such as ammonium nitrate, potassium sulphate and super phosphate has increased over 150-fold over past 50 years;

(b) whether over use of these fertilizers has led to fall in per-hectare agriculture production;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and efforts being made by Government to overcome it; and

(d) the measures being taken to promote bio-fertilizers in place of chemical fertilizers alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Ammonium Nitrate is not included in Schedule I Part A of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 and as such is not a chemical fertilizer. In respect of Potassium Sulphate and Super Phosphate the increase in use is not as significant as given in part (a) of the Question.

(b) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.